### Exodus

## Chapter 33

1Then the Lord told Moses:  
  
 ‘Go on! You and the people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt must leave now and go to the land that I promised to AbraHam, IsaAc, and Jacob, when I said:  
  
 ‘I will give this [land] to your offspring. 2For I’ll send My messenger ahead of you, and he will throw out the Amorites, Chettites, Pherezites, Gergeshites, Evites, Jebusites, and CanaAnites, 3then I’ll bring you into a land that flows with milk and honey.’  
  
 ‘However, I won’t be going with you, for fear that I’ll destroy you along the way, because you’re such a stubborn people!’  
  
  
4Well, when the people heard this bad news, they went into mourning and dressed themselves in mourning clothes.  
  
5But the Lord told the children of IsraEl:  
  
 ‘You’re a stubborn people!  
  
 ‘Now, pay attention, so I don’t send another plague to destroy you!  
  
 ‘Take off your [mourning] clothes and their trappings, and let Me show you what I’ll do for you.’  
  
6So the Sons of IsraEl took off all their [mourning] gear there at the dry mountain (Horeb). 7Then Moses carried the [materials for] the Tent (which they called the Tent of Proofs) outside of the camp and [had it] assembled some distance away, so that everyone who [wanted an answer from Jehovah] would have to go outside the camp to the Tent.  
  
8Then, whenever Moses would enter or leave the Tent, everyone would stand and watch at its entrance, to see what would happen. 9For when Moses entered the Tent, a column of clouds descended and stayed at the Tent’s entrance while [God] was speaking to Moses.  
  
10And as they all watched the column of clouds at the entrance to the Tent, everyone stood there and prayed 11as Jehovah spoke to Moses face to face as though they were two friends!  
  
Then after that, [Moses] would return to the camp, but his servant JoShua (son of NaWeh), who was a young man, didn’t leave the Tent.  
  
  
12Thereafter, Moses said to Jehovah:  
  
 ‘{Look!} You told me to lead these people on, but You haven’t shown me where You want me to go yet.  
  
 ‘You’ve also told me that You know me better than all the rest, and that You care for me... 13So now, if I’ve found favor in Your eyes, show Yourself to me so I can see You. Then I’ll know that I’ve found favor in Your eyes, and I can be sure that this great nation is truly Your people.’  
  
14And [God] replied:  
  
 ‘I’ll pass before you, to satisfy you.’  
  
15Then [Moses] said:  
  
 ‘But if You aren’t going to [travel] with us, don’t make me go either!  
  
 16‘For, how would anyone know for sure that these people and I have found favor with You, unless You go with us? [And if You should choose to go], both Your people and I’ll be glorified above all the nations of the earth.’  
  
17Well at this, the Lord told Moses:  
  
 ‘I’ll do this thing that you’ve asked, because you’ve found My favor and I’ve put you above all the rest.’  
  
18Then [Moses] said:  
  
 ‘Then, show Yourself to me!’  
  
19And [God] said:  
  
 ‘I’ll pass before you with My glory, and I’ll call out My Name (Jehovah) in front of you as I say:  
  
 ‘I’ll be merciful to those for whom I feel mercy, and I’ll have pity on those for whom I feel pity.’  
  
20Then [God] told [Moses]:  
  
 ‘You won’t be able to see My face, because no man can see My face and live.’  
  
21And the Lord said:  
  
 ‘{Look!} Stand by Me on that rock [over there]; 22and as My glory is passing by, I’ll put you into a hole in that rock and cover you with My hand as I pass. 23Then I’ll remove My hand, so you can see My back… But you won’t be able to see My face.’